

## CHAPTER TWO

### THE “CITIZEN SOLDIER”

The Reserve components of the Armed Forces of the United States trace their history to the 13 original English colonies in North America. The colonists brought with them the English militia tradition, which held that every free, able-bodied male had the obligation to furnish his own weapons and turn out under local leaders to defend the realm. Under the feudal system of the Middle Ages, economic and political institutions are arranged around the need for military manpower, and knights and **their** retainers provided the monarch with a trained pool of military manpower. As the feudal system waned, the need for military manpower did not, and during the 16th century a system separating the militia into two categories evolved. Most men would serve only in a crisis, while select others were grouped into “trained bands” which gathered regularly to practice military skills. This tradition was carried to the North American colonies, where there was no full-time Army, and every man was expected to provide his own weapons and be prepared for militia duty. In 1636, the Massachusetts Bay Colony formed the first permanent militia regiments in the colonies. Immediately prior to the Revolution, certain members of the Massachusetts militia were designated “Minutemen” ready for duty at a minute’s notice. It was these Massachusetts militiamen who fired the first shots of the Revolutionary War.

Before the Revolutionary War, the militia provided America’s sole source of defense. Later, during the Revolution, mili-

tiamen fought in every battle, providing support to the Continental Army. Motivated primarily by a strong sense of patriotism, these early National Guardsmen began the tradition of military service that reflected a basic attitude of all free people. America’s **first** President, George Washington, was himself a colonel in the Virginia Militia from 1752 through 1758. President Washington holds the distinction of being the **first** of eighteen former members of the militia or National Guard to later become President of the United States. Since the colonial era, citizen-soldiers have made **significant** contributions to the national defense and have served in every major conflict involving the United States. This tradition has served the country well. In peacetime, Americans have historically been unwilling to finance a large standing Active military force. Major conflicts have been fought by an Active force nucleus substantially augmented by trained and experienced individuals and units from mobilized Reserve forces, around which volunteers and conscripts could be formed into effective military members.

The history and traditions of the United States led to the creation of armed forces that were true reflections and extensions of civilian society. The defense of our Nation has been based in large part on the concept of the civilian who prepares for active service during peacetime and becomes a soldier-at-arms in times of national emergency. The fundamental principle of civilian control of the military is an important aspect of this concept which is firmly embedded in the Constitution of the

United States. It directs that all military forces are ultimately responsible to civilian authority in a chain-of-command that reports to the President acting as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

Over the years, the organized militia -- the National Guard -- and the Federal Reserve components became an integral part of community life. The militia meeting halls and Reserve centers of many towns became the center of not only military, but also civic and social activities. Following World War II, National Guard and Air Force Reserve air bases were established in local airports near small towns throughout America. As communities and industries grew, leaders in American business began encouraging employees to **participate** in National Guard and Reserve activities as citizen-soldiers. Employer support has grown substantially during this century and it continues today.

At the beginning of World War II, Reserve units lacked equipment and required extensive training before entering combat. Despite these shortcomings, Mobilized and volunteer reservists helped the Active Army expand from 264,118 on June 30, 1940 to 1,455,565 one year later. About 400,000 of this increase came from the National Guard and Reserve. Once fully trained and equipped, Reservists made outstanding contributions to the victory.

During the Korean War, the nation mobilized nearly one million National Guardsmen and Reservists. They required less post-mobilization training since most were veterans of World War II, but many had received little or no training subsequent to 1945. The first Reservists and Guardsmen called for Korea went into combat as individual fillers assigned for duty with Active units. At the start of the Korean

conflict, as in World War II, National Guard and Reserve units lacked adequate equipment and training for employment as units. The lessons learned from the Korean War led to renewed Congressional interest in the Reserve components, the result being the Armed Forces Reserve Act of 1952. This statute brought together in one place many of the existing laws related to the Reserve components, and it established in greater detail the composition, responsibilities and regulation of the Reserves. It also provided that each of the seven Reserve components would have a Ready Reserve, a Standby Reserve and a Retired Reserve.

During the Berlin Crisis of 1961 and 1962, 148,000 National Guardsmen and Reservists were once again called to active duty. The Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962 involved 14,000 Air Force Reservists who reported from their civilian homes and work places to their units in as few as nine hours. The *Pueblo Crisis* and the Vietnam War in the 1960s resulted in mobilization of 37,000 individual and unit members of the National Guard and Reserve.

Since the early 1970s, there has been a dramatic increase in the nation's reliance on Reserve component forces to fill peacetime and combat operational responsibilities. In 1983, Air Force Reserve crews airlifted students out of Grenada. They also inserted U.S. troops and equipment, including an Army Reserve Civil Affairs unit, to help restore order to that small island country. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard crews flew refueling missions, and Naval Reserve crews provided combat search and rescue for bomber aircraft missions against Libya in 1986. In recent years, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve crews airlifted relief supplies to Central America, Bosnia,

Somalia, and Northern Iraq. Army Guard and Reserve units provided road building and medical assistance to Honduras. Marine Corps Reserve air refueling tanker aircraft regularly support Active force tactical aircraft. Many Coast Guard Reservists volunteered to aid the cleanup following the major oil spill at Valdez, Alaska.

A rapidly expanding area of participation by all Reserve components of the U.S. Armed Forces is the counter-drug program of the Department of Defense. National Guard and Reserve personnel continue to participate in the nation's war on drugs on a daily basis. During Fiscal Year 1995, the National Guard and Army Reserve assisted numerous law enforcement agencies, primarily the U.S. Customs Service, in the seizure of more than 265,000 pounds of cocaine, 2,400 pounds of heroin, and over 800,000 pounds of marijuana. Additionally, more than 8,500 vehicles (including air and water craft), nearly 20,000 weapons, and \$236 million in cash were seized by National Guard counter-drug personnel during Fiscal Year 1995. The National Guard supported more than 7,000 counter-drug operations, resulting in 96,000 arrests during Fiscal 1995. The Army Reserve performed data and imagery analysis, security and surveillance operations in support of the counterdrug mission. Naval Reserve counterdrug efforts continued to expand during FY 95, to include flying over 3,200 hours of detection and monitoring missions. Naval Reserve ships spent 375 steaming days patrolling ocean drug routes and searching drug vessels. Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare units spent 707 mandays providing support and conducting surveillance operations for the U.S. Border Patrol and Customs and Immigration agencies.

In late 1989 Reserve component forces made substantial contributions to Operation JUST CAUSE in the liberation of the Republic of Panama. U.S. Army National Guard and Army Reserve individuals and units provided critical support in such areas as security, public affairs and civil affairs. Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve crews flew hundreds of missions ranging from strategic and tactical airlift to close air support. Army National Guardsmen and Army Reservists assumed a leading role in the process of restoring order and essential services to Panama in the aftermath of the military operations.

On August 2, 1990 the military forces of Iraq invaded and illegally annexed Kuwait. In the months that followed, the United States deployed over 545,000 men and women to the Southwest Asia theater of operations. On August 22, 1990, President George Bush authorized the first involuntary call to active duty of the Selected Reserve under the Total Force Policy. By the end of the Gulf War, some six months after mobilization began, nearly 250,000 Reservists had been called to active duty. Over 106,000 Reservists (42%) deployed to Southwest Asia. More than 16,000 served in other areas outside the United States. The remaining Reservists backfilled key positions in the continental U.S. and other locations, such as Europe and Okinawa, and provided needed augmentation to various organizations charged with support responsibilities. In testimony before Congress on February 9, 1991, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff described the contributions of Reserve forces as "magnificent."

Soon after the temporary unilateral cease fire was announced on February 27, 1991, a humanitarian effort, Operation

PROVIDE COMFORT, commenced in Northern Iraq and Turkey to care for Kurdish refugees. Both Active and Reserve personnel were involved in the care, feeding, and eventual return of these people to their homes.

In 1992 and 1993, the Reserve components continued to operate closely with their Active components in operational missions and exercises, including Operations PROVIDE HOPE (former Soviet Union), PROVIDE PROMISE (Sarajevo), and RESTORE HOPE (Somalia). Additionally, Guard units and personnel responded to 322 state emergency missions in 51 of our 54 states and territories. Over 27,000 Guardsmen were activated in response to such events as Hurricane Andrew, Typhoon Omar, and Hurricane Iniki. Reinforcing the importance of these missions, a Congressional Budget Office study, released in September 1992, recommended that domestic missions be included in force structuring decisions.

During 1993, the DoD completed the Bottom-Up Review in order to help develop an appropriate post-Cold War national security strategy. The resulting force structure reflected a shift in our traditional focus on the global Warsaw Pact threat. New emphasis was placed on handling regional conflicts, resisting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, monitoring the progress of democratic reform in nations of the former Soviet Union, and being more vigilant to threats to U.S. economic security. The Bottom-Up Review directed that greater reliance be placed on National Guard and Reserve units to help carry out the new military strategy. The 1990s have brought force structure adjustments, unit inactivations and downsizing. But U.S. Reserve forces will retain the capability to

help meet domestic security challenges as well as international ones.

During the fall of 1995, several hundred Guard and Reserve units and individuals were alerted for possible mobilization under the Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up (PSRC) authority for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina. PSRC authority permits call-ups of up to 270 days. Ready Reservists were identified for call up in November 1995 and ordered to active duty in December 1995. As of February 1996, 3,475 Army National Guard, Army, Navy and Marine Reservists, had been ordered to active duty. Several Reserve units reported directly to Bosnia for duty, while other Reserve units and individuals were assigned to Europe to support active Army units deployed to Bosnia from Germany. More than 880 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel volunteered for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR under the Air Force's DECISIVE EDGE volunteer program. U.S. participation in Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR will continue through December 1996. The call-up for many Reserve personnel for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR will expire in August 1996 under the statutory 270-day call-up authority. Therefore a number of additional Reserve units and individuals were identified during the spring of 1996 for call-up in the summer months. They will travel to Europe and Bosnia to complete the security and support missions assigned to the Reserve component units and personnel. The short-notice alert and successful call-up of Reserve component units and individuals for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR vividly demonstrate the increased reliance and responsibility being placed on America's Reserve forces.

In February 1996, additional Reserve component deactivations were announced for completion during Fiscal Year 1996. These changes will eliminate 15,222 force structure positions and 48,300 endstrength positions. Reserve component endstrength will be 931,000 at the end of Fiscal Year 1996. The post-Cold War draw-down is now about 90 percent complete. By the end of Fiscal Year 1997 Reserve endstrength is projected to be 901,000. At the end of Fiscal Year 1998 endstrength is projected to be 893,000. The Reserve Component Transition Assistance Program was instituted to assist Reserve units and individuals affected by manpower reductions and force structure changes. A qualified Reservist being involuntarily separated may receive special **separation** pay, early qualification for retired pay, continued commissary and exchange privileges, and extension of Montgomery **GI** Bill educational assistance.

Today, members of the Reserve components keep alive the honorable tradition of taking on responsibilities greater than those required of most citizens. They willingly sacrifice many weeknights, weekends, and vacation periods to learn, train, and prepare for the day when the country might need to call upon them. This tradition of dedicated service continues. As a vital partner of the Total Force, reservists are a reflection of society, centered on enduring values and core **competencies**. The days when our Nation's defense could be provided by citizens who put aside their tools and pick up their firearms are long past. Modern warfare and weapons require continuous training and preparation. The commitment of the Reserve components must therefore be focused and powerful. Reservists willingly sacrifice to perform service on their Nation's behalf. As in the

past, they form the vital link between the government, the armed forces and the people. The citizen soldier is, in the final analysis, the glue that holds the nation together in time of crisis.